

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on
MAY 23, 1997 10:00AM AD 131**

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms A. Kerby, Ms A. Ghadban, Ms N. Torbit, Mr. R. Côté, Ms J. Starkman, Ms S. Kiruluta, Ms M. West, Ms C. Hughes, Ms L. Lipscombe, Mr. M. Bujold, Mr. R. MacIver, Mr. A. Youness, Mr. A. Feldman, Mr. R. Melkonian, Ms C. Cogger

Absent with Regrets: Dr. R. Bonin, Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. A. Zakka, Mr. H. Zarins, Ms E. Robinson, Prof B. Barbieri, Dr. M. Barlow

Delegates: Ms Assunta Fagnoli replaced Ms J. Beaudoin, Ms C. Hedrich replaced Ms A. Vroom

Guests: Mr. D. Janssen

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert asked if there were any additions to the agenda under new Business. Ms Kiruluta asked that "Handbooks" be added, and Dr. Boisvert distributed a document on the Concordia Student Union Audio Visual Center. Approval of the agenda with these additions was moved by Ms West and seconded by Mr. Feldman. The motion was carried.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert said he would forego any remarks from the Chair.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MEETING OF APRIL 18, 1997

With respect to the appointment to the Recreation & Athletics Board (New Business 7A), Mr. Feldman asked that it be clarified that the Vice Rector Services' appointment on the Board is a **non-voting** position. A motion to approve the minutes with this clarification was made by Ms Hughes and seconded by Mr. Feldman. The motion was carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Vacancy on Recreation & Athletics Board:

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the CSU Council of Representatives has appointed Al Feldman to fill the student-at-large vacancy for the 1997-98 term. Dr. Boisvert asked Council to ratify this appointment. The motion to approve the appointment was carried. For the record it is noted that Mr. Feldman abstained.

b) Update on Centennial Move

Dr. Boisvert confirmed he has discussed the situation with Dr. P. Bird, Vice Dean (Research & Space Development). Dr. Bird said at this time there was no space available to accommodate student groups. Dr. Boisvert noted that ASFA was one of these groups

enough. He felt there was "space" available through Arts & Science and that the Faculty was not being cooperative. Mr. Feldman felt that stronger action was warranted. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Feldman proposed the following motion:

"Be it resolved that CCSL support in principle that student academic associations be housed in or near the faculty/department and be it further resolved that all faculties and departments that have not provided such space, provide such in the immediate future. Be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Vice Rector, Services to take action."

The motion was seconded by Ms Starkman. The motion was carried unanimously.

c) Other Business Arising

Dr. Boisvert stated that the position of "New Student Programmes Coordinator" would be posted by the end of May. However, he felt there was a pressing need to commence work on the Fall Orientation. To this end, Carl Kouri was hired as a student orientation assistant. The position is for the summer only (June 2- September 5). He will report to the New Student Programmes Coordinator.

5. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Ms Hedrich reported the Grad Finale would be held on June 13 from 5pm-7pm on the SGW Campus. Graduating students receive complimentary tickets. The ticket cost is \$10.00. She encouraged Council to support this important and happy event. Ms Hedrich also took this opportunity to confirm that "Homecoming" would be held on the weekend of Oct 16-18, 1997.

With respect to Bill 32, Ms Lipscombe stated that due to a lot of hard work, she is happy to report that nothing has happened with the respect to the "used books" policy. She informed Council that she will be a representative on the Regional Association to ensure that any regulations will not hinder Concordia's ability to have books "in place and in time" for our students.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council he had received a copy of a letter from a student sent to Mr. Zarins. The letter concerned the abrupt cancellation of the fitness classes on the Loyola Campus for the months of May and June. Ms Ghadban stated that she had been asked to speak on behalf of some Student Services staff on their dissatisfaction with the cancellation. She informed Council that the classes were already in progress when they were cancelled. She believed there were about 10 student/staff involved. Athletics said they needed 20 participants to break even. However that was not publicized as a condition of the class. There was concern expressed that the Loyola Campus was again getting the "short end of the stick". As Mr. Zarins was not present, Dr. Boisvert said he would discuss this issue directly with him and report back to Council. Mr. Côté asked that Mr. Zarins copy his reply to all CCSL members.

6. REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

As there was no presentation for this CCSL meeting, Dr. Boisvert asked each Director if they wished to embellish on their monthly reports. Ms Torbit informed Council there was "full service", but curtailed evening hours at the SGW Health Services as of June 2 through to August. However the Loyola Health Services would close for the summer as

of May 31. An evaluation was done of the Loyola Service and the response was positive. Ms Ghadban asked if the service would resume again September. Ms Torbit stated that the Loyola Service would be examined over the summer in consultation with Dr. Boisvert.

Ms Kerby informed Council that information on the Centre for Native Education was included in their May Report. She reiterated that although this was a relatively new program Concordia is five years ahead of McGill in its services for Native students. Dr. Boisvert suggested it would be a good idea to invite Ms Manon Tremblay, Coordinator of the Centre for Native Education, to speak at the first CCSL meeting in the Fall.

A suggestion was also made and accepted that the Permanent Observers be invited to make a presentation on their areas of service.

Mr. Feldman asked if there was an up-date on the Co-Op situation. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that a letter had been written to the Government asking them to forgive the loans made to our students. A request was also made to the Government to accredit the Computer Store to receive government computer loans. This request was made with CSU support. The University has not as yet received a formal response to these requests. Mr. Côté added that it is a political situation - there are not just Concordia students involved in this bankruptcy. Mr. Feldman asked if there had been any discussion on amendments to the legislation that would allow only members of the Co-op federation to process Quebec computer loans. Dr. Boisvert added that the Government had in fact allowed the Co-op to exist without accreditation. Mr. Côté affirmed that the Government was considering this.

Mr. Feldman asked if there was an update on the Info Centre on the Loyola Campus. As this centre could offer services not currently existing at Loyola, it would be beneficial for the centre to be open for business in the Fall. Dr. Boisvert replied that the question is still being grappled with and that he could not answer that question at the moment. Ms Ghadban asked if the money had to be spent in the budget year (97-98) or if it was in a trust account. Dr. Boisvert affirmed that the money was in an operational account. He also said that the University Space Plan may give a bigger picture and could affect decisions regarding the Loyola Campus.

Dr. Boisvert asked the student representatives if this year's format for Director's reports proved beneficial to them. As the response was positive, it was agreed that the format would be the same for next year. Each Director would provide monthly written reports on their department's activities as well as participating in a "Show & Tell" presentation during the academic year.

Ms Torbit said she wanted to take this opportunity to thank the student caucus for their participation, assistance and commitment to the work on CCSL. Dr. Boisvert added he too felt that this had been a very successful year and felt that the students' contribution was of great value.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Concordia Student Union Audio Visual Centre:** Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to this document. He informed Council that Ms R. Aldworth, CSU President, had prepared the report. The CSU would like to institute a mini AV Centre for non-academic purposes in order to avoid excessive costs and time consuming bureaucracy for

students. It was noted that the Mastercard Awards Program has allocated \$1600.00 to the proposed A.V. Centre. The CSU is requesting \$2,000 from the CCSL Speakers Fund. Dr. Boisvert reminded Council that this year \$6,000 has been allocated for a Speaker's Fund. This fund was created to financially assist student associations with internal university costs (eg A.V., security, room rentals) relating to their event. This fund is to be administered by the Special Projects Committee. Mr. Feldman felt that the \$2,000 contribution to the Centre was fair, but felt strongly that the balance of \$4,000 be kept in the CCSL Speakers Fund to assist associations with other internal costs such as security, room rentals, etc. Ms Kiruluta expressed concern about the security of such expensive equipment in the CSU offices. She also questioned whether this service would be available to all students or just CSU students. Mr. Feldman answered that reasonable access should be available to all non-CSU registered associations. Ms West asked when this service was expected to be available. Dr. Boisvert stated that the goal was September. Ms Kerby expressed concern that this service would not be able to meet all the needs and demands of student associations. There are built-in limitations with only 2 VCR's available. She questioned whether there were statistics available as to the needs, frequency of use, etc of A.V. equipment. Ms Kerby pointed out that the Services for Disabled Students also had "in house" equipment which was stored at Audio Visual but was for the exclusive use of disabled students. In this way the security of the equipment was assured as well as having an experienced technician available should there be problems. Perhaps this is an option CSU could investigate. Dr. Graub felt that the CSU equipment would not meet the demands and Concordia A.V. equipment may have to be reserved as well. She wondered if this project might be too ambitious. Would the bookings be first come, first served, would there be priorities, limitations, etc. Ms Lipscombe agreed, suggesting that the CSU equipment could be a back-up to the A.V. equipment. Ms Starkman asked about the availability of this Centre for use by student associations on the Loyola Campus. Mr. Feldman suggested that perhaps Loyola associations could have priority with respect to the balance in the CCSL Speakers Fund. Ms Cogger reiterated that this was a very basic proposal; that it was understood there were details to be worked out. She encouraged Council members to address any concerns or questions directly to Ms Aldworth. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council could not approve the request in principle and then the Special Projects Committee could meet over the summer to refine the details. Ms West felt more information was still needed before the request could be considered. After a lengthy discussion on set-up, procedures, priorities, the following motion was put forth Mr. Feldman, seconded by Mr. Melkonian:

"Be it Resolved that \$2,050 of the Speakers Fund Budget be allocated to the CSU Audio-Visual Centre project, subject to final approval by the Special Projects Committee, in keeping with the principle that equipment be safe and available to all students"

The motion was discussed. Ms Kiruluta asked if this proposal had been discussed at the last CSU Council meeting. Ms Starkman replied no, it had not been as yet discussed. Mr. Feldman stated that as there was no money coming from CSU for this project, it would be discussed at Council for information only. Ms Torbit felt this issue was not as simple as first envisioned. She was not sure if Special Projects was the right committee to handle this. Ms Kiruluta was willing to support the idea but only after seeing a full, detailed proposal. Mr. Feldman felt it was important to have this project in place for September and he felt that the Special Projects Committee could review the detailed CSU report on the Centre and make a decision concerning the transfer of funds during the summer. However as some Council members felt there were too many unanswered questions, Ms Kiruluta suggested that this proposal return to Council in the Fall after all the details have been clarified over the summer. No funds are to be released until the finalized details are presented to CCSL. Council felt that it was also important to ensure

the rights of the Loyola student associations were also addressed. The motion was amended as follows:

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"**Be it Resolved** that \$2,050 of the CCSL Speakers' Fund budget be allocated to the CSU Audio-Visual Centre ~~project~~, subject to final approval by CCSL in the fall, in keeping with the principles that the equipment be kept in a secure location and be available to student groups on both campuses"

The motion was carried: 11 Yes 2 No 0 Abstention

b. **Handbooks:** Ms Kiruluta brought up the issue of the different student handbooks and the information on the Student Services departments that appeared in them. In the past editing has been done by the various handbook editors in order to meet their printing requirements. Sometimes this has been done to the detriment of a service. An option she put forth to Council was that each department would pay for their own information page. In this way, the set-up and wording would be the way the department wants it. There would be a uniform look for all the handbooks. Ms Kerby acknowledged that Advocacy and Support Services has always supplied information for the various handbooks. Any modifications the editors may have made has not been problematic. Mr. Côté said he would have a problem paying for an information page in the handbook. He doesn't feel there should be a cost when the whole point is to give information to the students. According to their findings, Ms Torbit said that the handbook is an excellent source for students to find out about Student Services. Dr. Boisvert asked each Director to prepare a package of material for each umbrella association (CSU, ECA, CASA, GSA). Ms Kiruluta said a page per unit would be adequate.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** Friday, September 19th in H 769 at 10:00am

9. **TERMINATION OF MEETING:**

The meeting was terminated at 12:30pm.